

COUNT RODERIC'S
CASTLE:

OR,
GOTHIC TIMES,

A TALE.
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

In winter's tedious nights, sit by the fire,
With good old folks, and let them tell thee tales
Of woeful ages long ago betide.

SHAK. RICH. II.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR WILLIAM LANE,
AT THE
Minerva-Press,
LEADENHALL-STREET.

MDCCXCIV.

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1607/3866.



COUNT RODERIC'S CASTLE.

CHAP. X.

THOUGH Rhinaldo, the Lady
 Isabel, and their friends, were
 delivered from their late peril, it was
 still a matter of serious deliberation in
 what manner they should now proceed.

To remain where they were 'till the day should dawn, would render them liable to all the dangers that might result from a discovery. It was resolved, therefore, dark as the night was, to proceed, and they travelled onward, 'till the day broke upon them, in a small opening of the forest.

A stream, which broke from the summit of a lofty cliff, that bounded them on one side, and ran murmuring along the foot of it, tempted them to halt here for a short time, and take that repose, of which they were so much in need. After drinking of this stream,
and



and resting themselves, they pursued their journey.

Though the dread of being overtaken had supported them thro' more than common exertions, yet nature began, at length, to be exhausted—and Habel, dissolving into tears, declared that she must die where she was, for she could proceed no farther; saying this, she sunk into Rhinaldo's arms, who laid her gently on the turf, and supporting her head on his breast, hung over her in all the agony of the most piercing despair.

COUNT RODERIC'S CASTLE.

Anselmo, Ellenor, and Barbara, (the two latter of whom felt a degree of faintness and lassitude almost equal to that of the fainting Isabel,) knew not what to do. At length Anselmo perceiving that the cliff, from which the stream took its course, still appeared through the tops of the trees on his right hand, proposed to Count Tancred, if possible, to climb it, that from its summit they might explore the country around, under the precarious hope that some relief might possibly be at hand. Impressed with this idea, they made their way towards it, and had scarcely gained the margin of the rivulet,

vulet, when, to their infinite surprise and joy, they saw the eminence terminate at some distance from them, by an easy descent, interspersed with clumps of trees, leaving the rivulet to wind through a beautiful valley, which divided the forest as far as the eye could reach.

At the bottom of this descent, and close on the banks of the rivulet, they discovered a cottage, and hastened towards it, to endeavour to procure relief.

B 3

They

They had scarcely gained the wooden bridge, by which it communicated with the valley, when a man advanced from the cottage door to meet them. What was the surprise of Anselmo, when he perceived this man to be Rugiero.

After expressing his astonishment at a meeting so unexpected, he communicated to Rugiero the situation in which he had left his companions, and they returned to the spot where Isabel had sunk under her fatigue. They found her still supported by Rhinaldo, and her Cousin and attendant sitting by her, in a dreary silence. Intelligence of the unexpected

unexpected relief which was at hand gave some animation to their drooping spirits.

Isabel arose, with the assistance of Rhinaldo, and leaning on his arm, and upheld by Count Tancred on the other side, she followed Anselmo, who supported the feeble steps of his weary Ellenor, while Rugiero served them as a guide, and Barbara leaning on the attendant of Count Tancred, followed her lady.

The owner of the dwelling received them with an honest though rustic hos-

pitality. He desired his wife, who was nothing backward in her civilities, to attend to the lady, for as yet he discovered but one, while he prepared a homely meal for the rest, whom he perceived to stand in great need of refreshment.

Isabel and Ellenor were conducted by the old woman, after she had been informed of the secret of their sex, to a comfortable bed, on which they threw themselves without undressing; and Barbara, at their desire, placing herself by their side, they soon fell into a sound and refreshing sleep.

During

During this period, Rugiero visited Rhinaldo's wounds. They had been originally slight, and a good constitution had already so far contributed to their cure, that this skilful domestic found his labours limited to the freeing his master from the traces of the blood which had originally issued from them. Having therefore dressed him as well as the bareness of his toilet would permit, and persuaded him to take, in an easy chair, that repose of which he stood so much in need, he related to Count Anselmo those circumstances, which had happened to him since they
had

had lost him in the forest. He told him of the accident which had happened to his horse, which he had reason to believe never rose from the spot where he fell.

"I waited," continued Rugiero, "under the tree, to which I had crept for shelter, 'till the storm had in some measure abated, when I returned to try if I could raise my horse. After several efforts I found it impracticable, and was finally obliged to give over the attempt, on hearing the trampling of a body of horsemen on the road. As

it

it appeared to me probable that these were of Count Rhodolpho's party, I turned immediately out of the path, and making across the forest, which at that place is tolerably open, I had the good luck, before I had proceeded far, to arrive at the banks of this rivulet, and, finding no bridge across it, pursued my path along its margin, 'till I discovered this cottage.

"The old pair, who inhabit it, are vassals to Count Rhodolpho, but having hoarded some money in the service of the father of the late Count de St. Amand, are in easy circumstances.—

This

This I learned from themselves on my arrival. They appear to be honest people, yet I cannot conceal from your lordship my apprehensions that we are by no means in safety here. It cannot be far from the road which I quitted, when I heard the trampling of horses, and by which you found your way from one Castle to the other. If Count Rhodolpho should disperse his party through the forest in search of us, some of them will, in all probability, find their way to this cottage."

After a few hours passed in sleep, the
Lady Isabel arose, much refreshed, and
awakening

awakening her Cousin and attendant, they joined Rhinaldo and his friends.

A consultation again took place. Anselmo communicated to his friends the fears of Rugiero, and it was agreed, after some deliberation, that they should seek the Castle of Count Roderic, Rhinaldo's father, where they deemed themselves sure of protection.

Though they were not acquainted with the direct road to it, they knew in what part of the country it lay; and Rugiero hesitated not to declare, that he thought he could undertake to conduct

duct them towards it. Having then gratified their kind hosts, and provided themselves with some refreshments for their journey, they departed, and crossing into a thicker part of the forest, to avoid being discovered, they turned their steps towards that part of the country in which Rugiero conjectured the Count Roderic's Castle lay.

After a march of some hours, they stopped to refresh themselves, and setting forward again, pursued their journey 'till the shades of evening began again to overtake them.

Though

Though they had travelled far, there was yet no appearance of the Castle, and from the answers of Rugiero, to the incessant questions which the fears of Lady Isabel suggested, it was perceived that he was at least more diffident of his knowledge than he had been in the morning.

This discovery had an affect on the spirits of the whole party. The necessity of subjecting their fair companions, for another night, to the inclemency of the skies, gave a double portion of anguish to the breasts of Ansel-

me

mo and Rhinaldo, and they moved onward in a mournful silence, which every one seemed too much occupied by his own thoughts to interrupt.

- As they were thus slowly travelling onward, they arrived at a rising ground, on which was erected a stone cross.— This mark Rugiero no sooner perceived, than he suddenly exclaimed that he knew the spot.

- “To the right,” said he, “is an hermitage belonging to the Convent of St. Julian; and to the left, within the distance

distance of half a mile, the road which leads to Count Roderic's Castle, which cannot be more than six miles from us."

Anselmo proposed that they should turn towards the hermitage, where the Lady Isabel and her Cousin, who seemed worn out with fatigue, might rest 'till the morning; but these ladies appeared to have collected fresh spirits from the information of Rugiero, and anxious to arrive at a place of safety, declared that they were very well enabled to reach the Castle, urging Rhinaldo to proceed with so much eager-

ness, that the plan was, as it turned out, most unluckily adopted.

They soon reached the road, but had not travelled far along it, when, as they turned the corner of a wood, which projected towards the road, they were overtaken by a troop of cavalry, who had no sooner discovered, than they galloped immediately towards them.

At the head of this troop they quickly discovered Rhodolpho, who immediately ordered them to be surrounded and disarmed.

The

The horsemen, who consisted of Rhodolpho's company of men at arms, attended by their valets, immediately pressed upon them.

Rhinaldo, prepared to defend the Princess and her Cousin to the last extremity, drew up his little band, with their backs to the wood, and seeing Rhodolpho press onwards with the rest, sprung forward, and aimed a blow at him with his pole-axe, which, as he stooped to avoid it, alighted on his shoulder, and brought him to the ground.

It pierced his corslet, and, had he not been completely armed, as were all his troop, would, though it had not proved fatal, have probably disabled him for ever.

This accident occupied part of his troop, who surrounded him. As soon as he recovered himself, he gave orders that the women, whose habits he described, should be seized, while the men were engaged, and carried off.

This command was speedily executed by the valets, who, being unarmed, could the more readily dismount.—

While

While Rhinaldo and his friends were pressed by the horsemen, these fellows seized on the Princess and her companions, and in spite of their efforts, their tears and supplications, bore them away.

This was not done without opposition from their little party, who, upon hearing the shrieks of the women, made a daring effort to join them; but pressed on all sides by the horsemen, another body of whom formed up to cover the retreat of those who bore off the Princess, they were finally compelled to retire, and seek shelter in the

C 3

wood,

wood, which they did without difficulty, for the horsemen, who were completely and heavily armed, having no room to charge them, found themselves rather incumbered than assisted by their lances, and they could not dismount to assail them in the wood; they therefore, when they found their enemies secured from any farther attack, and the prize they had contended for attained, retired after their companions.

It would be difficult to paint the despair which seized on Rhinaldo and Anselmo at this fatal event. A thousand
schemes,

schemes, suggested by grief and indignation, presented themselves to them. They purposed following the ravishers, many and formidable as they were; but they could never hope to overtake them.

It was at last resolved that they should pursue their way to the Castle, when their attention was called towards Count Tancred, who was sitting at the foot of a tree. He had received a wound, from the thrust of a lance, in his arm, and it bled so profusely, that there was little hope of his being able to walk so far as to the Castle that evening; and

Rugiero, who bound up his wound, proposed that they should seek shelter for the night at the hermitage he had mentioned, which was at no great distance, and proceed in the morning towards the Castle. This advice was, in their present situation, too salutary to be neglected, and they returned to the stone cross, which they had so lately left, whence Rugiero conducted them to the hermitage.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

THE venerable inhabitant of the place had not yet lighted his lamp, but sat at the door of his cavern, wrapt in meditation. He advanced to meet them with a benevolent

lent smile, and offered them the shelter of his lowly roof, in terms which a long acquaintance, with the more polished society among mankind, could alone communicate; and he no sooner perceived the situation of Count Tancred, than he produced some medicinal stores, for which he was much famed among the neighbouring poor, and inspecting the wound, applied to it a dressing, from the experienced virtues of which he promised himself a speedy success. He then “spread his vegetable store” before his guests; nor was this all—the gratitude of his rustic neighbours had supplied him with more substantial

substantial food, of which he sometimes, though sparingly, partook.

He could not but perceive the gloom and despondency which hung over some of his guests, and which all their efforts to gratify him by a cheerful acceptance of his favours, could not dispel; but his skill in mankind had taught him, that where grief admits of alleviation, by being participated, it will obtrude itself; and that where it seeks concealment, it is generally too poignant to be relieved by communication.

Rhinaldo,

Rhinaldo, however, who knew not of any motive he had to conceal himself so near to his father's Castle, and who, had any such motive occurred, would have disdained a concealment with any one who belonged to the convent of St. Julian, made himself readily known to the hermit, and introduced his friends Anselmo and Tancred.

The venerable hermit received this communication with politeness, but a visible reserve hung over him during the rest of the repast, which Rugiero, the most unconcerned of the guests, except

except Count Tancred's deliverer, was the first to notice.

It perplexed this faithful servant, and he watched an opportunity to communicate his observation to his master.— This, however, he waited in vain to obtain.

The hermit, as soon as their frugal repast was finished, begged that Rhinaldo would indulge him, by accompanying him round his little domains, which it had been for many years his daily task to beautify; and his other guests, perceiving that they were not included

included in this invitation, suffered Rhinaldo, who readily accepted of this offer, to accompany him alone.

The moon had now arisen, and, after some general observations on the beauty of the place, which, at such a season, would have had a thousand charms for any bosom less torn with conflicting passions than that of Rhinaldo, the hermit addressed him as follows:

“ Count Rhinaldo, I am doomed to communicate to you intelligence, of which I find by your conversation you
3 are

are yet ignorant, and which must severely afflict you."

"Proceed," said Rhinaldo, firmly—"after what I have suffered to-day, all other sorrows must be light."

"Count Roderic's Castle," continued the hermit, "is in the hands of the king."

"Has my father then," said Rhinaldo, in a tone of grief, "sided with the usurper? Alas! why was not I permitted to communicate to him that
secret,

secret, the concealment of which has produced so much mischief; for had he known that his lawful sovereign —”

“ Alas!” said the hermit, “ your father is himself a prisoner, if——if —— he lives.”

“ If he lives!” said Rhinaldo, starting back, and a visible paleness overspread his countenance.

“ The king,” said the hermit, “ surprised him—no sooner had the plot, in which you embarked, failed, than Astolpho

Colpho set out hastily for the frontiers. He arrived here before any intelligence could be received, and desired admission to the Castle, as your father's guest, for a few days. Your father, unconscious that he could have any fresh cause of displeasure, and indeed unable, on so sudden an occasion, to prevent his admission, was compelled to receive him; and he was very speedily followed by a force which would have proved formidable, had his intention been divulged. Thus has he contrived to sit down before his enemies, occupying a very formidable post. Our friends,

however, yet possess the mount of St. Julian, where they are very strong."

"And has no intelligence of the fate of my father yet reached you?"

"None, - but the melancholy and uncertain rumour which I have already disclosed to you."

Rhinaldo seemed wrapt, for a moment, in gloomy reflections. He started, after a pause, from his reverie.—
"And father Anthony?" said Rhinaldo, in a hesitating voice.

"My

“ My son, I commend thy caution,” said the hermit; “ but father Anthony is now acknowledged for that which he is. Yes,” continued the venerable anchorite, his eyes gleaming with the fire of youth as he spoke, “ our lawful lord and sovereign, Emanuel, commands the forces on Mount St. Julian, and may success attend his arms! His situation indeed, at present, is not without danger; but if the diversion on the western frontiers, which is already formidable, should draw off any strong detachment of Astolpho’s forces, what may we not expect?”

D 2

“ Thou

“Thou speakest with a fire that would shame the tardiness of younger men, father,” said Rhinaldo.

“Would I could join my brethren of the Mount in arms!” replied the hermit. “But even here I may not prove wholly useless.”

Rhinaldo now returned to join his friends, and the hermit spread before them some mats, the work of his own hands, composed of grass and rushes; but the softest down could not have allured Rhinaldo to slumber. He revolved in his mind the situation of his father;

father; and the loss of Isabel, which had so deeply afflicted him, seemed to lose some of the bitterness with which it had overwhelmed him.

He judged that his own conduct, which he now censured as hasty and rash, had involved that honoured parent in disgrace and ruin—perhaps had given him up a prey to the knife of the secret assassin. He could not for a moment endure the pang of a thought so pregnant with horror. He resolved at all events to proceed to the Castle, and learn the fate of his father, that, if he still lived, he might learn his destiny,

D 3

and

and participate his misfortunes; and, if dead, might revenge his death, or devote himself a sacrifice to the fatal consequences of his rash and mysterious enterprise.

Anselmo, whose loss would not permit him to enjoy a larger portion of repose than fell to the lot of Rhinaldo, left his couch with the first dawn of day, and perceived his friend already risen, and tracing, with pensive step, the beautiful, yet gloomy recesses, with which the neighbourhood of the hermitage abounded.

Here

Here Rhinaldo related to him the intelligence which he had received from the hermit, and concluded with his fixed determination to disguise himself, and at all events, if possible, gain access to the Castle.

The venerable father now joined them, and having in vain endeavoured to point out to Rhinaldo the rashness of his undertaking, was compelled to acquiesce in his determination, and offered to assist in preparing him for the perpetration of his design.

Anselmo, when he heard that the rallying point of the party which had been so unsuccessful in the enterprise, of which he had been the leader, was so near the spot where he now was, resolved to join the faithful adherents of Emanuel at the convent of St. Julian; and received intelligence from the hermit of a pass by which he might gain the out-posts, avoiding at the same time the troops of Aftolpho, and a secret word, which would procure him ready admission to their leaders.

Rhinaldo,

Rhinaldo, in pursuance of his design, cut his hair close to his head; and having otherwise, by the assistance and advice of his friends, so disguised his person, that there was little dread of his being discovered, changed his dress for that of the man who had attended Count Tancred, and, having taken a friendly leave of that nobleman, whose wound became so much inflamed, as to threaten him with some confinement in the hermitage, he departed, accompanied by Count Anselmo and his faithful Rugiero.

When

When they had proceeded about three miles on their journey, Count Anselmo, accompanied by Rugiero, whom his lord, in spite of all his intreaties, refused to admit to a share in the adventure he was about to undertake, lest his presence should lead to a discovery, quitted Rhinaldo to pursue the road which the hermit had pointed out to him.

Deep in meditation on his intended scheme, and revolving in his mind plan after plan, now adopting and now rejecting them, as they offered themselves

for his consideration, Rhinaldo came within sight of his father's Castle, before any settled system of operation had suggested itself to him.

While he was thus musing, his eyes fixed with a mournful gaze on the well-known turrets, which recalled to his memory many of the cheerful and innocent hours of childhood, he came suddenly upon a guard of Astolpho's soldiers, who were posted on one of the avenues to the Castle.

The centinel who was on duty asked him who he was? and where he was going?

going? As he was hesitating what answer he should give, he perceived the corporal, who was commanding officer of this party, miserably thrumming upon a harp.

He answered, "that he was a poor harper, who had been robbed in the forest of that which was the only means of his subsistence—his harp."

This was a lure, from which he hoped to derive some advantage, for he was well skilled in this instrument, which

which had formed great part of his amusement during his youthful days. Nor was he deceived in his expectations. The corporal arose upon hearing this, and, giving him the instrument, desired him to play. He had no sooner touched it, than the whole guard forgot their duty. They received him as if he had been an old acquaintance, and the corporal placing him on the seat which he had just occupied, they sat in a circle round him, listening to the strains which flowed from his instrument in silent rapture.

To

To this officer he particularly attached himself, and so won upon him, by imparting to him a few instructions concerning the instrument he so much admired, that when he was relieved, he swore he would not part with so valuable a friend, but conducted him to the guardhouse of the Castle.

He was soon familiarized among the soldiers, and frequently urged to enlist among them, but telling his friend, the corporal, frankly, that he did not like the situation, and wished to be placed in service, that officer soon introduced him

him to one of the servants of the house, who was like himself fond of music; and by the good offices of this patron, Rhinaldo became soon enrolled among the liveried attendants on Astolpho.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

THUS introduced to his paternal mansion, he mingled unnoticed with the servile herd, among whom he was enrolled, and traced, in this obscure situation, those stately apartments,

ments, which had rung with gratulatory acclamations at his birth, and where his youth had been fostered with the most anxious care.

The splendid armour which adorned the hall, had proved the hardy deeds of a long line of warlike ancestors; and the banners which waved over them, were badges of their illustrious descent.

On the morning succeeding the day of his admission to the Castle, as he was employed, with others, in preparing a repast, Astolpho, attended by the chief

officers who had accompanied him on this expedition, entered the hall. He was leaning on one of his train in close and familiar converse. How was the indignation of Rhinaldo aroused, when he found this favourite to be his cruel enemy Rhodolpho!

A thousand ideas obtruded themselves at once on his mind. Conflicting passions assailed his bosom, over which rage and revenge predominated, and he was on the point of rushing, unarmed and helpless as he was, upon his rancorous enemy, and attempting
to

to sacrifice him, even at the side of Astolpho, a victim to his own wrongs, and the tears of his adored Isabel. But the idea of this lovely maiden presented itself to his imagination, at a fortunate period, to check the wild frenzy which had seized him.

Rhodolpho was in the Castle. Was it not probable that Isabel was there too? The hope, faint as it at first appeared, that she might, even now, be under the same roof with him—that, unknown as he was, some favourable opportunity of serving her might occur to him, soothed his transports, and

he retired, as soon as the duties of his office would permit him, to meditate, in solitude, on a subject, which so amply engrossed his contemplation. But he had soon, alas ! a deeper subject for meditation ; for

“ Meditation, even to madness.”

It was no longer a subject of doubt or concealment in the Castle, that Roderic the Hardy, the lord of the domain, the father of Rhinaldo ! had been murdered, within half a league of the Castle ; and the finger of suspicion pointed at Aftolpho.

Indeed,

Indeed, when the circumstances attending this transaction were considered, little doubt could be entertained on the subject.

Roderic had not been seen since he had welcomed the king to the Castle.

A very short time had sufficed to acquaint him with Astolpho's design, and at day-break on the ensuing morning, (for it was evening when Astolpho arrived,) he had departed, completely armed, with a few trusty attendants. It was thought that Astolpho was aware of this departure, and

winked at it, though Count Roderic could have but one design in it, which was to join his friends in the west, for, within half a league of the Castle, he was set upon by a party, and killed with the shot of an arquebus, pointed directly at his breast, so close that his corset was unable to resist the balls.

Not one of his attendants escaped; but the transaction was witnessed by some who knew his armour. They sought afterwards for the body, but that, as well as those of his attendants, was carried off, and probably for reasons known to Astolpho, if he were

really the author of this murder, buried in some secret place.

The reflections of Rhinaldo upon this horrid catastrophe, were the most bitter that unbounded grief and unavailing remorse could furnish. He looked upon himself as the murderer of his father. A settled gloom overspread his mind, and nothing but the hope of revenge could have instigated him to perform the task he had undertaken, or have procrastinated, for a moment, a discovery which must have proved fatal to him.

From these more than melancholy reflections, he was aroused by intelligence which diverted his affections into a different channel. He learned that the Princess was actually, as he suspected, in the Castle; but nobody whom he could converse with had yet seen her. It was also reported that Rhodolpho was soon to be married to her.

Rhinaldo, acquainted as he was with the Castle from the days of his earliest youth, knew that, if she was actually there, she could not be long concealed from him, and resolved to watch the motions

motions of Rhodolpho with a scrutinizing eye.

In the mean time hostilities were vigourously carried on between the two parties.

Astolpho had a very strong force with him at the Castle, with which he continued to make vigourous assaults against the Priory; but, besides that, that post was almost impregnable—it was defended by the most brave and experienced knights—for such had been the fathers of St. Julian, before they

they devoted their days to the duties of religion.

The wound which had detained Count Tancred at the hermitage, proved more obstinate than he had expected; nor did the state of his mind in any way contribute to the forwarding its cure; but he found, in the conversation of the venerable hermit, much alleviation to his sorrows.

This holy father, who had long trod, in a distinguished character, the busy stage of the world, had not viewed mankind

mankind without observation. His mind was, therefore, amply stored with true wisdom, that which is born of sound reflection upon long experience, and the sublime truths of religion had softened his heart to the frailties and infirmities of his fellow-creatures, while they spread over his breast that delicious calm which they alone are capable of bestowing.

Count Tancred, who, in communicating his griefs to such a man, found the only alleviation to his sorrows of which they were capable, soon entrusted

trusted to him the secret of that melancholy, to which it was too apparent his heart was a prey.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

“**Y**OU will not, my venerable father,” said the Count, “long wonder at the weight which oppresses my soul, and which, in spite of all efforts to throw it off, still
“ baffles

“ baffles my endeavours, when I relate
“ to you my unhappy story.

“ You are not ignorant, that our
“ monarch Aftolpho, furnamed the
“ Proud, had a fifter many years
“ younger than himfelf, whom, when
“ upon the death of the great and
“ good Emanuel, he mounted the
“ throne of Lombardy, he drew from
“ the retirement in which fhe had been
“ till that period immured.

“ The Princefs Afpafia was at this
“ time of fuch tender years, that it
“ was not judged proper to detain her
“ long

“ long at court. The Castle of Mon-
“ talban, than which none can be more
“ delightfully situated, was fitted up
“ in a most princely manner for her
“ residence; and her household was
“ established under the government
“ and direction of a lady, her rela-
“ tion.

“ Of this establishment I had, what
“ I then esteemed, the good fortune
“ to make one. In an age, little ad-
“ vanced beyond that of infancy, I
“ was appointed one of the pages to
“ the Princess.

“ Let

“ Let me pass over, my venerable
“ father, those hours, in which the
“ seeds of a passion, which I shall carry
“ with me to the grave, began to un-
“ fold themselves.

“ Those delicious moments, which
“ were incessantly marked by sensa-
“ tions as sweet as undefined, are
“ awakened to the memory, only to
“ embitter, by obtruding themselves
“ into a comparison with others which
“ have been as strongly tinged with
“ complicated misery.

“ What

“ What was at first duty, soon grew
“ to be something more—and, surely,
“ no hours can be more sweetly passed
“ than those in which his duties of sta-
“ tion are stimulated by affection, and
“ have the reward of not passing un-
“ noticed by their object.

“ The Princess soon distinguished
“ me—I adored her—we grew up to-
“ gether, and our passion strengthened
“ with our years.

“ Let me hasten to the conclusion
“ of a tale, which too much oppresses
“ me.

“In the time of the late wars, Aftolpho
“ scarcely during three years resided for
“ three months in the capital. The
“ Princess, though of an age to grace
“ the most distinguished circles, by
“ her understanding as well as her
“ beauty, seemed to be forgotten, and
“ remained, without a murmur on her
“ part, at the Castle of Montalban.

“ Happy period! Period! made
“ up of the most delicious moments!
“ To see her daily—to attend her as
“ the sweetest, the most grateful of
“ duties urged me, was all my full
“ satisfied heart had learned to wish!

“ Alas!

“ Alas! it was too soon to end. I
“ became of an age, when it was
“ deemed improper that I should re-
“ main idle at home.

“ I was appointed to a command;
“ and, with as much alacrity as a man
“ can possess, who leaves behind him
“ all to which his heart has learned to
“ cleave, I joined the army. I was
“ then stationed with the same brigade
“ as Rhinaldo, and it was our fortune
“ to see some severe service together.
“ I returned about the time when As-
“ tolpho ordered the Princess to court.

“ She there became the theme of cease-
“ less admiration.

“ Aftolpho himself seemed to adore
“ her, when suddenly, contrary to all
“ expectations, in spite of her detes-
“ tation towards the object—of her
“ prayers and supplications—of the
“ groans she uttered—and the tears
“ she shed at his feet—he sacrificed
“ her to his stern and brutal favourite,
“ the Count St. Amand.

“ Proud, vindictive, and remorse-
“ less, this man seemed little softened
“ by

“ by the beauties which inflamed him;
 “ but bore his wretched victim to a
 “ dreary Castle on the north of this
 “ forest, where, in solitude, she was
 “ left to shed unavailing tears over the
 “ miserable fate to which the unac-
 “ countable partiality of a brother,
 “ who, she had reason to believe, lo-
 “ ved her, had consigned her a help-
 “ less prey.

“ What, alas! was my situation
 “ during this dreadful period! My
 “ despair was not to be concealed. It
 “ became so marked, that the cause
 “ of it began to be whispered at court.

“ My frantic love at length, no longer
“ to be restrained, burst forth in an
“ act, which involved the object of it,
“ as well as myself, in the most wretch-
“ ed calamity.

“ I determined to obtain an inter-
“ view, a last one, with the Princess,
“ and then to seek in a foreign war
“ that death, which the peaceful state
“ of my own country then denied to
“ my wishes.

“ Unhappy resolution! I bribed
“ her servants, and gained admittance
“ to her presence. She was in her
“ chamber,

“ chamber, which she seldom quitted.
“ I found her employed in adding some
“ ornaments to a mantle of state which
“ she had formerly embroidered and
“ destined for me, upon Aftolpho’s
“ promising, at her intercession, to
“ appoint me, young as I was, to the
“ office of Knight Marshal, which is,
“ as you well know, a post of great
“ honour, and to which my birth alone,
“ though it is not inconsiderable, could
“ scarcely, at so early a period, have
“ entitled me.

“ She was weeping—weeping, as
“ she confessed, in an agony of sor-
F 4 “ row,

“ row, as soon as her resentment at
“ the rash action of which I had been
“ guilty had subsided, over the me-
“ mory of the unfortunate Tancred.

“ Let me hurry over this delicious
“ though fatal interview. I told her
“ my resolve—we were both in tears
“ —I was kneeling at her feet, bid-
“ ding her adieu, and had my lips
“ pressed to her lovely hand, which
“ was wet with my tears, and on which
“ I imprinted a last kiss, and was ri-
“ sing to tear myself away for ever—
“ when the Count, whether apprised
“ by the servants I had corrupted, or
“ incited

“ incited by the rumours which pre-
“ vailed at Court, and the settled for-
“ row and disgust which the Princess
“ could not conceal at the sacrifice she
“ had been compelled to make, burst
“ into the room, attended by a nume-
“ rous train of servants.

“ I was about to draw my sword,
“ when I was seized and disarmed.

“ The brutality of the Count's na-
“ ture now raged uncontrouled. He
“ drew a poignard, as if about to mur-
“ der his wife in my presence; but a
“ thought of a deeper revenge seemed
“ to

“ to check this purpose. He smiled
“ grimly on her, and, sheathing the
“ dagger, ordered me to be carried to
“ a place of security.

“ We were both of us, the next
“ morning, before the day broke,
“ conveyed secretly to a ruinous man-
“ sion, which he possesses, situate on
“ the verge of the forest, attended by
“ himself and two servants, in whom
“ he chiefly confided.

“ The miseries which the unhappy
“ Aspasia endured, from the savage
“ and unbridled cruelty of this mon-
“ ster,

“ster, during a month’s confinement
“in that desolate mansion, she alone
“can tell.

“I was the tenant of a loathsome
“dungeon, from which the hand of
“Providence, and the courage and
“conduct of my friend Rhinaldo, re-
“lieved me. In what manner you
“have heard from himself. You have
“also heard how the Princess was
“again torn from us. But let me
“perish ignobly, if I do not discover
“the miscreant Rhodolpho, the base
“son of this inhuman father, if the
“earth

“ earth does not conceal him. I will
“ tear him from the side of his master,
“ in whose favour he hath supplanted
“ his father, rather than forego the re-
“ venge for which my soul thirsts.”

CHAP.

CHAP. XIV.

THE hermit strove to calm the violent agitation, which he perceived the relation of Count Tancred had raised in his bosom, and, having soothed him to some degree of tranquillity, addressed him as follows :

3

“ Alas !

“ Alas! my son, let not your rage
“ induce you to attempt impossibili-
“ ties; but await 'till circumstances
“ shall bereave your enemies of that
“ power, of which they are now, too
“ fatally, possessed.

“ Rhodolpho is as firmly fixed as
“ his father was in the favour of Af-
“ tolpho; and were another sister to
“ be sacrificed, dear to that monarch
“ as was Albina, she would instant-
“ neously become the sacrifice of this
“ connexion.

“ Of

“ Of the cause of this I have learn-
“ ed from Rhinaldo that you are ig-
“ norant—but I do not fear to trust
“ you with it. Listen then to the
“ story I shall relate :——

“ It is now about fifteen years since
“ Lombardy sustained a loss, which
“ it has never yet recovered, in our
“ great and good Emanuel, when this
“ half-brother Aftolpho ascended the
“ throne. It was generally thought that
“ Emanuel had perished in a hunting
“ party, in which he was separated
“ from his attendants, and in spite of
“ all those inquiries which the anxiety
“ of

“ of a whole people promoted, he
“ was never, for the space of above
“ fourteen years, heard of.

“ This supposition was rendered the
“ more probable, as the part of the
“ forest in which he was missed abound-
“ ed with wolves of the largest and
“ most ravenous kind.

“ His dauntless courage—the wis-
“ dom which was displayed in every
“ act of his government—the mild-
“ nefs and urbanity of his address and
“ manners, rendered the loss of such
“ a king universally regretted. Nor
“ was

“ was it without symptoms of gloom
“ and dissatisfaction that Astolpho's ti-
“ tle to the crown was confessed; and
“ the daughter of Emanuel, though
“ then in the age of absolute infancy,
“ did not want partizans, who sug-
“ gested in very loud terms her right
“ to the throne.

“ The party of Astolpho, however,
“ who was indisputably brave and skil-
“ ful in the field, and who possessed
“ some of those virtues which allure
“ popularity, soon silenced these mur-
“ murers, and he was proclaimed
“ king.

“ Fourteen years had elapsed since
“ this event took place, when a stran-
“ ger, poorly clad, but of a dignified
“ and majestic mien, arrived towards
“ the fall of night at the Priory of St.
“ Julian, and demanded of the supe-
“ rior admission into the brotherhood,
“ pledging himself to make good his
“ claim on the succeeding day.

“ The necessary qualification for a
“ brother of our order is, that the
“ candidate be a knight, who has for
“ fifteen years served his country brave-
“ ly, faithfully, and without reproach.

“ The

“ The stranger was presented with
 “ some refreshment after his journey,
 “ and conveyed to a cell, where he
 “ was left to repose himself 'till the
 “ morning, when he was desired to
 “ attend the superior of the order.

“ When the stranger was admitted
 “ into the presence of the superior, he
 “ asked him “ if he knew him ?”

“ The old man, who had lived for
 “ above thirty years in that retire-
 “ ment, had lost all traces of his coun-
 “ tenance.

“ My father !” exclaimed the stranger, “ if your pupil Emanuel, who
“ followed your steps so inadequately
“ at the battle of the Bucklers *, should
“ be still living, might he hope protection from the brothers of St.
“ Julian ?”

* So called from a corps of infantry called Buckler Men, who fought with sword and target, and whose gallant stand under the shelter of their bucklers, which were exceedingly large, saved the right wing of the army; commanded by the father of Emanuel in person, and turned the fortune of the day.

“ The

“ The good old man arose from his
 “ seat at these words, and approached
 “ the stranger, for his eyes had begun
 “ already to grow dim with age. He
 “ surveyed him for a short time, and
 “ then falling at his feet, and embrac-
 “ ing his knees,—“ I have lived long
 “ enough!” exclaimed the venerable
 soldier; “ am I permitted once more
 “ to behold my sovereign!—one who
 “ has so long been the pride of my
 “ heart!—one whose death my age
 “ has so long lamented.”

“ Emanuel (for he was the stranger)
 “ raising the old man, folded him in

“ his arms, and asked him whether he
“ might confide a secret, on which his
“ life depended, to the rest of the fa-
“ thers !”

“ Of this indeed he little doubted.
“ He knew them all—for they had all
“ been the companions of his youth,
“ as renowned for their courage as their
“ conduct, and he easily gave credit
“ to the venerable prior, when he took
“ upon himself to answer for their
“ fidelity.

“ They were immediately summon-
“ ed, and Emanuel discovered himself

“ to

“ to them, and related the cir-
“ cumstances of the mysterious fate
“ which enveloped him, nearly as
“ follows:—

CHAP. XV.

“ **O**N the day which first beheld
“ me torn from my kingdom,
“ and doomed for fourteen years to a
“ state of dreary and melancholy con-
“ finement, I was pursuing the chace
“ with

“ with my wonted eagerness, and found
“ myself, through the swiftness of my
“ horse, separated from all my com-
“ panions and attendants, except my
“ brother Astolpho, and his friend the
“ Count St. Amand, who had changed
“ their horses, and were thus enabled
“ to keep up with me.

“ After riding for some consider-
“ able time, and finding ourselves in-
“ volved in the most intricate part of
“ the forest, notwithstanding the skill
“ of the Count de St. Amand, who
“ undertook to guide us, it was pro-
“ posed by that nobleman that we
“ should

“ should seek refreshment at a man-
 “ sion of his, which he said he was
 “ sure could be at no great distance
 “ from the part of the forest in which
 “ we then were.

“ It proved, as he had conjectured,
 “ that we were near to this spot, and
 “ a short time conducted us to it. It
 “ was an old building, spacious, and
 “ formerly, no doubt, magnificent.

“ The Count apologized for the
 “ reception we were about to meet
 “ with, in a house where he main-
 “ tained but few servants, and where
 “ he

“ he seldom resided. It did not, there-
“ fore, appear singular to me to be
“ welcomed only by a single domestic,
“ who received orders to attend to our
“ horses, and procure us some refresh-
“ ment; while we were conducted by
“ the Count himself to a spacious
“ apartment. There a collation was
“ soon spread, and we ate like men
“ who had rode hard all the morning.

“ After dinner the Count proposed
“ to shew us the house, in the con-
“ struction of which, old as it was, he
“ said there were some things deserv-
“ ing attention.

“ After

“ After viewing many apartments,
“ we were conducted up a staircase in-
“ to a small room, in which were de-
“ posited various pieces of armour;
“ from this room, slipping aside a pan-
“ nel of the wainscot which concealed a
“ door strongly fortified with iron, the
“ Count led us into an apartment to-
“ lerably spacious, but very gloomy,
“ furnished with a bed, and other con-
“ veniencies of a stately structure, but
“ of very antique fashion.

“ In this apartment I was much sur-
“ prised to find a man of a stern feroci-
“ ous countenance, and a robust make,
“ whom,

“ whom, though I had not much no-
“ ticed him before, I soon perceived
“ to be the servant who had attended
“ at our entrance. He was armed
“ with a cuirass, had a sword by his
“ side, a dagger in his girdle, and held
“ a partizan in his hand.

“ I observed, with some surprise,
“ that he did not move his hat, which
“ he had on, at our approach; and a
“ little alarmed at this circumstance,
“ as well as his general appearance,
“ from my own defenceless state, (for
“ I had set out in the morning armed
“ only with a cutlass for the chace,
“ which

“ which I had unbuckled and thrown
“ aside, during our repast, after the
“ example of my brother and the
“ Count,) I turned round to look for
“ Aftolpho, and perceived that he had
“ not entered the room with us.

“ I had no time to waste in con-
“ jectures on this circumstance. The
“ Count shut the door behind him,
“ and, advancing towards the man,
“ seized the partizan which he held in
“ his hand, and pointing it to my
“ breast, swore vehemently that if I
“ ventured to stir, I should die.

“ He

“ He then desired the fellow to do
 “ his duty, who, reaching down a pair
 “ of manacles, which were hung to
 “ the wall, came forward to bind them
 “ on my wrists.

“ Unarmed as I was, I disdained to
 “ suffer this treatment tamely. I seized
 “ the partizan which the Count held
 “ to my breast, and should soon have
 “ wrested it from him, had not his as-
 “ sociate come to his assistance, and,
 “ drawing his sword, sworn he would
 “ plunge it to my heart if I did not
 “ desist.

“ I found

“ I found farther resistance ensured
“ my immediate death, and was, at
“ length, obliged to submit. My
“ hands were manacled, and, after
“ being assured that, if I proved tract-
“ table, my life would be safe, and I
“ should want for nothing, I was left
“ to meditate on this singular trans-
“ action, the iron door being secured,
“ as I could but too well hear, by many
“ locks and bolts.

“ During fourteen years confine-
“ ment, I never saw this fellow after-
“ wards, and have great reason to be-
“ lieve, from what I have been since
“ able

“ able to learn, that my brother and
“ the Count made him attend them to
“ the thickest of the forest upon my
“ horse, and there dispatched him and
“ my favourite beast together, as my
“ horse's furniture, my cloak, (which
“ in the heat of the chase I had given
“ to the Count to carry,) and my cut-
“ lasses, were found at no considerable
“ distance from each other, in the part
“ of the forest which the wolves most
“ infest, who had probably made a
“ meal of this fellow and his horse.

“ It was some time before I could
“ sufficiently recollect my scattered

“ senses to survey the apartment in
“ which I was confined. This, how-
“ ever, I at length did. I found it
“ supplied with every conveniency
“ which could contribute to render
“ confinement tolerable.

“ Among other things there was a
“ good collection of books, which in
“ such a situation proved a treasure.

“ The first idea with which I began
“ the survey of this apartment, was
“ that of escaping. I surveyed it
“ round; but the more I beheld it,
“ the more was I mortified with a
“ conviction

“ conviction of the impossibility of
“ succeeding in any attempt of that
“ kind.

“ The windows were very high,
“ and so small, that it would have been
“ impossible to force a man's body
“ through them; though they opened
“ gradually towards the inside of the
“ wall, which was very thick. The
“ chimney was extremely narrow, as
“ was indeed every outlet which was
“ necessary to this chamber of con-
“ finement; and it was defended, as I
“ found in an attempt I made to thrust
H 2 “ myself.

“ myself up it, by a strong iron grate
“ —perhaps by more than one—nay,
“ if I had made my way to the roof,
“ through the chimney, or had been
“ able to squeeze my body thro’ one
“ of the windows, I should scarcely
“ have found myself in a better situa-
“ tion than in my apartment, which
“ was at an immense distance from the
“ ground.

“ I found that they had left for me
“ some provisions, a few bottles of
“ wine, and some of water; and, as
“ soon as the melancholy ideas, with
“ which

" which my situation could not fail o-
 " impress me, would permit to think
 " of gratifying the calls of nature, I
 " took a slight repast, and throwing
 " myself on the bed, delivered my-
 " self to an agitated and broken slum-
 " ber.

" On the next morning I examined
 " the iron-cased door. To this door
 " you ascended, by some stone steps,
 " from the apartment.

" In returning from this examina-
 " tion, which still contributed to damp-
 " my hopes of escape, I found, at the
 H 3 " bottom.

“ bottom of these steps, another door.

“ It was very strong, made of wood,

“ and furnished with a maffy lock and

“ bolts, and in the centre of it was a

“ machine, somewhat similar to those

“ used in convents, which are turned

“ upon a pivot, for the purpose of con-

“ veying things from the outside to

“ the persons within.

“ While I was musing upon these

“ circumstances, I heard the bolts of

“ the iron door unfastened, and the

“ Count St. Amand entered, armed

“ with more precaution than on the

“ preceding day.

“ I up-

“ I upbraided him with his trea-
 “ chery and disloyalty, and approach-
 “ ing, with an intent to seize him, he
 “ drew his sword, and swore that my
 “ life should answer for any attempt on
 “ his person.

“ Sir,” said he, “ if you will sub-
 “ mit with patience to your destiny;
 “ your confinement shall be rendered
 “ as little irksome as possible. You
 “ shall want for nothing—but, ’till the
 “ period of that confinement, you must
 “ not expect to see any person what-
 “ ever. You shall be allowed pen-
 “ and ink—and by conveying a note

H 4

“ into

“ into the box of this inner door, you
“ will make known your wants, which
“ will be supplied.”

“ So saying, he threw me a key,
“ that I might unlock my fetters, from
“ which I was permitted for the fu-
“ ture to be free, and from that mo-
“ ment I saw him no more.

“ I was, however, regularly sup-
“ plied through the medium of this
“ inner door, which he locked and
“ bolted after him, with whatever I
“ wanted, furnished always, as I had
“ reason to believe, by himself in per-
“ son,

“ son, though I sometimes suspected,
“ from the difference of the step which
“ I heard, a step with which my ear
“ was not unacquainted, that my bro-
“ ther Astolpho supplied his place.

“ I will not detain you with endless
“ projects, and some futile attempts to
“ escape, which always proved abor-
“ tive, during a period of fourteen
“ years confinement:—Let it suffice
“ to say, that it was at last accom-
“ plished in the following singular
“ manner:—

“ I was

“ I was awakened one night by a
“ terrible storm—the wind shook the
“ building to its foundation—the
“ thunder broke in deafning peals over
“ my head—the lightning flashed al-
“ most without intermission, so that
“ my prison was perfectly enlightened
“ by its rays.

“ I arose from my bed, and paced
“ my chamber, deeply meditating on
“ the awful horrors of the night, when
“ a flash of lightning darted full on
“ the building, attended by a clap of
“ thunder so terrible, that I thought
“ the

“ the tottering fabric would have fallen
“ at one blow in ruins to the earth.

“ I was struck down, and lay for a
“ short time senseless, and upon reco-
“ vering myself, was preparing again
“ to lie down on the bed, when, cast-
“ ing my eyes to the other end of the
“ room, I was struck by an object
“ which called all my attention.

“ The storm seemed somewhat to
“ have abated, but, as I looked to-
“ wards the corner of the room, I
“ could perceive the lightning flash-
“ ing, as I imagined, through the so-
“ lid

“ lid wall. I approached the spot—
“ but how can I describe my astonish-
“ ment, when I perceived the wall to
“ be rent open, by the displacing of
“ several of the stones of which it
“ was composed?

“ I removed the rubbish with an
“ eagerness which almost frustrated its
“ own intent, and squeezing my body
“ through the crevice, perceived with
“ a rapture, which I cannot describe,
“ that my escape from my prison was
“ become almost certain, if I would
“ hazard the attempt.

“ I fell

“ I fell on my knees on the spot
“ where I stood, and amid the awful
“ horrors of the storm, returned thanks
“ to that Providence whom it had
“ pleased thus, almost miraculously, to
“ relieve me from so long and melan-
“ choly an imprisonment.

“ The lightning (the near ap-
“ proach of which I had so sensibly
“ felt) had fallen on one of the tur-
“ rets of this old mansion, connected
“ with the apartment in which I was
“ confined, and having torn off the
“ roof, the battlements, and great part
“ of the wall, had left most of the
stone

“ stone staircase within it entire.—
 “ When I got through the breach
 “ which the storm had made, I found
 “ myself on one of the steps of this
 “ staircase which now stood, unde-
 “ fended by any wall or balustrade,
 “ winding down on the outside of the
 “ building.

“ The sight of it was indeed tre-
 “ mendous. The lightning discovered
 “ to me the buildings, and the moat
 “ beneath, at an immense distance.

“ Nothing, perhaps, less than that
 “ ardent thirst for liberty, which then
 “ possessed

“ possessed me, could have urged me
 “ to attempt the descent, ignorant of
 “ what steps the storm might have
 “ loosened, and what displaced.

“ I did not, however, hesitate, but
 “ began, boldly, the descent of this
 “ awful precipice, for such (narrow,
 “ tottering, and undefended, except
 “ by part of the wall, which still seem-
 “ ed to cling to the steps here and
 “ there) it certainly was.

“ After some risque from the loose-
 “ ness of my footing, and the power
 “ of

“ of the wind, I arrived at last safely
“ at the bottom, and found myself
“ within the mansion.

“ Whether, during my confinement,
“ any servants had been kept at this
“ place, or whether the house had
“ been deserted, I do not know. I
“ explored my way through the dark
“ recesses into which the staircase had
“ led me, and after much difficulty,
“ undiscovered by any one, probably
“ because, if there were servants in
“ the house, the storm prevented their
“ hearing me, I found my way out at
“ the

“ the door of the hall, and gained the
“ forest, where I passed a night of
“ rapture, unabated by the howling
“ of the storm around me.

“ In the morning I made my way
“ to a cottage, whose inmates, little
“ imagining they were protecting their
“ monarch, afforded me shelter and
“ food. They shall not, however, re-
“ pent their hospitality, if I should
“ be fortunate enough to regain pos-
“ session of my throne. From this
“ cottage I am come to seek farther
“ shelter with you.”

Such was the story which Emanuel related to the prior and community of St. Julian's—in the course of which it will occur to every one as a singular circumstance, that, instead of subjecting themselves to the hazard of the king's escape from his place of confinement, the conspirators did not immediately take away his life.

This was entirely owing to the superstition of Aftolpho—a quality which is not unfrequently attendant on the most daring courage, tho' seemingly extremely opposite to it in its nature.

Aftolpho

Astolpho had been informed, early in life, by an old man who pretended to be deeply versed in judicial astrology, and who was, on that account, much respected by him, that he should not long survive his brother; and this idea, with the truth of which, as with that of all such predictions, he was fully impressed, probably saved Emanuel's life.

He was willing to risque any thing but his own life, which he thought depended on Emanuel's, to obtain the crown.

He might also, perhaps, feel, in the midst of all his ambition, some degree of tenderness towards a relation, who had himself shewn so much affection towards him; and this conjecture is rendered the more probable, when we reflect on his conduct towards the Princess Isabel, whom he has educated with a care and tenderness which, tho' the attachment of the people towards her might perhaps have insured her from any attempt on her life, does not seem to have been necessary from any motives of policy.

During

During a reign of fourteen years, Astolpho had so well secured himself on the throne of his half-brother, that it was improbable that any sudden irruption in favour of Emanuel should be attended with success.

It became, therefore, necessary that he should be secreted with care, 'till the strength of his friends could be tried; and it was agreed that he should change the garment in which he escaped—which was a plain dress, provided for him by the Count de St. Amand, for the habit of the order, and enroll himself among the fathers of St. Ju-

lian. With these brave and faithful companions, then, has he resided for upwards of twelve months, during which time his health, which, notwithstanding his unwearied practice of taking as much exercise every day as the size of his prison would allow, was somewhat impaired, has been re-established, and measures have been most cautiously and indefatigably pursued to restore him to the throne, which his unworthy relation has usurped.

In the course of this pursuit, the young Count Rhinaldo, whose father, Count Roderic, surnamed the Hardy,
is

is lord of the Castle at the foot of the mountain, and of the domain around it, was deemed worthy to be entrusted with this secret and important event.

Virtuous, enterprising, and active, he was called by his father at the conclusion of the last campaign from the bustle of the field, to partake of that retirement to which the displeasure of Astolpho had condemned this formidable leader.

Retirement at such a period of life, and with such a disposition, but ill suited the temper of Rhinaldo. He grew,

on a sudden, melancholy, reserved, and gloomy, and his only consolation, amid the despondency which seemed to surround him at the Castle of his father, was the conversation of the fathers of St. Julian.

Knights, like himself, they still delighted in the tales of former times, but their rashness was tempered by experience, and their ferocity by age.

It was in this society that father Anthony, (for so was Emanuel called,) became acquainted with him, and tho' he had been at variance with Count Roderic,

Roderic, who had, at a very early period of life, imbibed some discontent from a conduct which he had thought partial in the king, and had so behaved himself upon the discovery, as totally to alienate the affections of Emanuel, yet that Prince discovered so much virtuous energy and early wisdom in the conduct and conversation of the son, that he became speedily attached to him, and at length ventured to discover to him his secret—but under a solemn engagement, that he would never reveal it to his father, whom he could not prevail upon himself to confide in.

How

How was the loyalty of Rhinaldo confirmed, when he beheld in Emanuel, the father of his adored Lady Isabel! He pledged his faith to this revered but unfortunate sovereign, and became one, among a very few, entrusted with a plot lately formed in the capital, which has unfortunately proved unsuccessful, to seize upon the palace and the person of Astolpho.

What will be the event of this attempt to re-establish on the throne this brave but injured monarch, it is impossible at present to decide.

His

His friends are busy in the southern and western parts of the kingdom, and have already raised forces, which appear formidable to Astolpho. At present that usurper has a superiority at the Castle, and has made some vigorous attacks on the mount, which is most resolutely defended by Emanuel and my brethren there, who have again resumed their arms. Old as I am, I had determined to join them; but it was judged that the little service I was able to perform in favour of a cause to which I feel so strong an attachment, might be, with better success, attempted here.

I have

I have a frequent but guarded communication with them, which my situation has hitherto concealed from the eyes of the enemy. If, however, it should at length be discovered, I shall remember that I am a knight, and gladly yield up the few hours which yet might have been spared to me in the cause of true loyalty.

The hermit thus concluded his story, which agitated the breast of Count Tancred with mingled indignation, pity, and surprise.

It.

It for a while suspended his sorrows for the Princess Albina, and he felt that he had one more cause to lament the unhappy tardiness of his cure.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

RHINALDO, under the disguise of a servant, became again familiarized to the apartments of his paternal mansion.

He was every day a witness to the increasing favour of Rhodolpho with the usurper, a circumstance which excited less surprise in his breast than grief and indignation. He daily heard Emanuel treated in the Court of Astolpho as an impostor—a slander, to which, indeed, a claim revived after a silence of fourteen years, afforded some foundation; and he was aware that Rhodolpho was probably the only man who could lay open the foulness and falsehood of such an assertion.

He was not, however, aware of one circumstance, which had thrown Astolpho,

tolpho, more compleatly than he had conjectured, into the hands of his favourite.

The Count St. Amand had, with that paternal fondness which the worst men sometimes feel, entrusted his son, after binding him by many oaths to a strict concealment, with this important secret, as a means by which he might ensure the continuance of Astolpho's favour, in case that Prince should survive the Count—but fortune had done more for him. On the night of Emanuel's escape, he had left behind him, among other things, a book, in which
he

he had minuted every occurrence which he thought worthy of notice during his long confinement.

As every day was much like the preceding one, this work was not very voluminous, but it contained a short account of his arrival at the mansion, and was continued at intervals nearly up to the day of his escape.

Upon visiting the rooms after the escape of the king, the Count St. Amand found this journal, and, even amidst the confusion which seized upon

him when he discovered the escape of his prisoner, he did not forget to possess himself of it.

This book, with annotations in many pages of it in his father's hand-writing, all combining to bear testimony to the truth of its contents, fell into the hands of Rhodolpho upon the Count's death; as did a ring which was known to be Emanuel's, and which, as it was found among the rubbish by the workmen, who repaired the ruins which the storm had made, was probably lost by the king as he forced his way through the

6 aperture

aperture in the wall in order to make his escape.

With such proofs in his power, (of the existence of which Astolpho was not ignorant,) it was of the utmost importance to that prince that he should secure to himself the good will of Rhodolpho; and the servile adulation of that young nobleman rendered this by no means a difficult or unpleasant task.

Rhinaldo, however, beheld the influence he was possessed of with the utmost dread, aware as he was that it threw his beloved Isabel compleatly

into the power of this unworthy rival. Nor was it long before he was convinced that his fears were but too well founded.

Incessantly employed in endeavours to discover in what part of the Castle the Princess was confined, he in a short time perceived that two of Rhodolpho's servants, who were more constantly than the rest about their master's person at the hours of meals, always attended him with six covers for his table, though he himself always dined and supped with Astolpho; these servants Rhinaldo resolved to watch; and,

and, on the day succeeding that on which he had formed this resolution, he followed them, at the usual hour, towards their lord's apartments—he saw them enter with the covers which had been prepared, and shortly after return, preceded by Rhodolpho, who led them up the great staircase, and unlocking a door, remained at it while they entered a suite of apartments, which Rhinaldo knew to terminate in a spacious chamber, formerly allotted to himself, which extended to the other side of the building. Satisfied with this discovery he returned, and was crossing the court of the castle, to gain

the opposite wing, when he was called to his duty, which was on that day to attend at the carrying up Astolpho's dinner.

Mad as he was at the delay which this degrading duty occasioned, he was obliged to submit, and some hours passed before he was at leisure to pursue his intended design, for he could not omit any portion of the servile task allotted to him, without incurring suspicion, which might ruin his design, or without the danger of a dismissal, which would effectually frustrate his long-cherished hopes.

Evening

Evening had for some time set in, when he found himself at liberty, and a second time crossing the court, gained the side of the house which had been so long the object of his anxious solicitude.—He ascended a staircase; every step of which was familiar to him; though it seemed little frequented by the present inhabitants of the Castle; and had not indeed been much used by his father, as it led to the most ancient part of this extensive pile, a part which had been for many years much neglected, for the more modern portion of the building, on which great cost had been bestowed. The steps of

K 4. Rhinaldo

Rhinaldo, however, had frequently traced this venerable and neglected fabric.—He loved to muse in a long gallery, hung with the pictures of his ancestors, and rendered a fit object for the indulgence of that enthusiasm which is often the companion of youthful imagination, by the gloom which the narrow, coloured panes, and massy frames of its gothic windows threw around.

To this gallery, which extended from wing to wing on one side of the building, a space of very considerable length, Rhinaldo now ascended, and tracing his way along it by the light of the moon,
arrived

arrived at the opposite door to that by which he had entered.—He was much mortified when he found that this door, which was not far distant from the apartment, in which he conjectured that the Lady Isabel was confined, was locked.—He tried in vain to open or force it, and was considering what step he should pursue, when he recollected, that over the gallery there was another room of the same size, which had never been used but as a loft, through which he might pass and gain the apartments; on that side of the castle; he therefore returned along the gallery to the staircase
he

he had just quitted, and ascending still by a more narrow part of it, which, as it had been very seldom frequented, was somewhat incumbered by rubbish, he passed through one or two small rooms, and arrived at the door of the loft; this he laid hold on, and pushing it against some rubbish, which for a moment prevented its opening, he entered the loft.

As he entered he heard a noise at the farther end, and, by the light of the moon, imagined he perceived the figure of a man, which starting from a seat, disappearing hastily by the opposite door.

He

He could not, indeed, distinctly ascertain the figure of this object, in delineating which he was, perhaps, deluded by his imagination; but upon the coolest reflexion he was convinced he had seen something move in that end of the loft, and that whatever it might be that was in motion, it was an object so polished as to reflect the moon's beams; and by which alone he had been enabled to discover it.

He puzzled himself in vain for some time, with reflexions on this singular circumstance, till at last, recollecting the primary object of his pursuit, he
passed

passed the loft, and entering at the opposite door, which he found open, descended by another staircase, and soon arrived at those apartments from which the door of the gallery below had excluded him.—He proceeded through two small rooms and gained a third, which joined to the apartment in which he supposed the princess to be confined.—This apartment, the last of those which were inhabited on that side of the house, had formerly communicated by a small door with the room in which Rhinaldo now stood; but this door had long been nailed up, and the door-way had been plaistered over

over on the inside, to render it level with the wall, at a time when, by Count Roderic's order, the apartment had been hung with an elegant tapestry.—

At this door Rhinaldo listened, but could hear nothing. — He examined the fastenings, they were old and worn with rust; he found that if he could procure instruments, it would not be difficult to draw the nails, and thus open the door.—This he determined to attempt at an hour when the family were asleep, when he had little doubt that he might work undiscovered in so retired a part of the mansion.

Having

Having formed this resolution, he returned through the loft, and mingling with the other servants, occupied himself in the duties of his office till the hour of rest approached.

A stillness now began by degrees to invade the roar and tumult to which the hours of wassel gave birth.—Astolpho and his companions had retired to rest, and the menial servants only waited till some of his inferior officers, who were indulging themselves in a sober silent debauch, should chuse to retire.

Rhinaldo,

Rhinaldo, who had taken care to provide himself with tools fit for his purpose, waited with anxiety for the conclusion of their supper—the clock from the turret tolled out twelve, and this party, as if awakened from their lethargy by the sound, arose, to the secret joy of Rhinaldo, who saw them take their route to their several apartments. He retired to a small room allotted to him, and waited till the castle was buried in a profound silence; then taking his tools in his hand, he set out in pursuit of his purpose.

As he passed the door of the long gallery, in his way to the loft above it,

At, he heard a noise, and imagining that some part of the family were yet up, he determined to enter the gallery, and wait there. — He had no sooner set his foot within the door-way than he felt himself for a moment rivetted by surprise to the spot where he stood. — The moon shone in full splendor thro' the windows of the gallery, and clad with an awful and solemn beauty, the gothic ornaments of the place; when, by the light it diffused, Rhinaldo beheld, seated on a chair, beneath the picture of his father, the same figure which he had before distinguished in the loft above, and which he could

now

now plainly perceive to be that of a man, in complete armour.

As he entered the room the figure started up, and disappeared by the opposite door, which Rhinaldo had found shut on his previous visit to that place. As soon as he could recover himself from the sudden astonishment and confusion with which he was overwhelmed; he followed hastily along the gallery, but found, when he arrived at the further end of it, the door, by which the figure had disappeared, still locked. This circumstance impressed him with new astonishment, not unmixed, in spite

of all the firmness of his mind, with terror; he returned, however, through the gallery, and ascended the other flight of stairs, in order to pass through the loft to the apartment in which he was to proceed to work.

As he entered the loft he again saw the same figure which he had seen twice before, standing in the opposite door-way, and upon the noise he made on entrance it again disappeared.— Rhinaldo now, agitated by a thousand different sensations, rushed hastily forward, and passing swiftly through the loft, gained the staircase at the other
end

end of it, which led to the apartments which he had designed to visit.— He descended the stairs swiftly, and examined minutely every apartment—all was silence—he could perceive no object—he could hear no sound.— After musing some time he began to be convinced that his imagination had deceived him, and searching for the little door which was to be the object of his labours, he proceeded to work. As he was fearful, if the adjoining apartment should really prove to be that of the Lady Isabel, the noise he might make would alarm her, he proceeded on his work with extreme

L 2 caution,

caution, and nearly an hour had elapsed before he had compleatly conquered all the difficulties which opposed themselves to him, and had opened the door, which he did very gently, lest the creaking of its rusty hinges should be heard.

He now found himself close to the apartment which he meant to explore; the only separation between the two rooms being a thin partition of plaister, which cased the door-way on the inside.—He listened—all was silent this was to be expected at such an hour. He thrust one of the implements he
had

had with him through the wall, to discover whether there was any light in the room; but the tapestry which covered the walls prevented this discovery.

He paused again.—After a short time he distinctly heard the step of a man in the chamber, and concluding, from this circumstance, that his conjecture, as to this apartment, had been ill-founded, was preparing to retire, when he heard the voice of a man, who, addressing himself to another, in a low but hasty tone, said, “My lord, the
“ King requires your presence immediately.”

L 3

“Curfed

“Curfed ill-fortune,” replied the other, in a voice which he knew to be Rhodolpho’s, “What can he want with me at this hour?”

“Something has dreadfully disordered him; he has rifen from his bed; his looks are full of perplexity and horror; and he has defired your immediate prefence.”

They now walked slowly from the place, and Rhinaldo, fatisfied that he had taken his trouble for nothing, retired.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVI.

AFTER passing through the two adjacent apartments, Rhinaldo arrived at that door of the gallery which was locked, and was about to ascend the staircase which led to the loft above it, in order to return in his usual way,

L 4

when

when he again beheld the same figure on the stairs, leaning with one hand against the wall.—The moon, through a small window, which gave light to this part of the staircase, disclosed, compleatly, the head of this figure; in the countenance of it, Rhinaldo, from the momentary view he gained, (for at his approach the figure turned hastily from him and disappeared) was convinced, that he saw that of his murdered father. — The helmet was his—the plumage, the very plumage he wore when he had last attended him in the field.

Struck

Struck with horror at this sight, he felt himself for some moments rooted to the spot where he stood; but recovering himself, at length he ran hastily up the staircase, and entered the lobby.—He could see nothing—he listened—all was still.—In a short time he heard a murmur ascending from below, and the treading of several footsteps, as if the inhabitants of the castle were already stirring.

He crossed the loft, and descending into the hall, found several of Astolpho's attendants, and some of the servants, who were collected in different
groupes,

groupes, and huddled close together, as if listening to some dreadful tale.— He joined one of these parties, and learned, that the cause of the confusion he witnessed was the disordered state of the king, who had been awakened from his sleep in such a paroxysm of horror, as to have spread, by his conduct, a general alarm.

The cause of this was not certainly known, because, as soon as he became again master of himself, he imputed his alarm to a dream, and ordered his attendants again to their repose; but the first report had been,
that

that the figure of Count Roderic, who was generally suspected to have been slain by his order, had appeared to him compleatly armed; that it had opened his curtains, and presented a dagger to his breast; but had, after a short pause, with a look of mingled contempt and pity, withdrawn it and disappeared. This figure had been seen by none of the attendants in the anti-chamber, who were buried in a profound sleep, except one indeed, who declared that he saw something brush by him, and pass out at the door; but as this person had been in company with the rest, drinking freely in the course of
the

the evening, this was generally imputed to the fumes of the liquor with which he had been indulging himself.

In the hurry of the first alarm Count Rhodolpho had been sent for, but that order had been now countermanded: the king had sent to him, as he had done to others of his attendants, to tell him that he was not wanted, and had shut himself up in his chamber with the captain of his guard, an approved and valiant knight.

Agitated by this fresh intelligence, which concerned him so nearly, and
bore

bore so palpable a relation to the appearance which had three times encountered his sight in the course of the same evening, Rhinaldo was lost in meditation—his companions, dropping off one by one, left him alone in the hall; he sat musing for some time; at length, no longer able to bear the accumulated pangs of the various feelings which assailed him, he resolved again to explore that part of the building where he had already beheld this singular spectre; to address it—if it fled, to follow it.—In short, at all events, if possible, to put an end to the
horrid

horrid suspense which now oppressed him.

He accordingly ascended, for the third time, to the gallery.—All there was still and silent.—He again visited the loft.—He thought he perceived something—he advanced—it was only a singular appearance at an angle of the wall, caused by a particular direction of the moon-beam.—He passed along the loft, and began to descend by the opposite staircase.

He had reached the door of those apartments, in one of which he had so lately

lately been at work, when he heard a noise behind him, as if on the top of the staircase, near the door of the loft. He re-ascended five or six steps of the staircase, and thought he perceived at the top of it something moving.—He was rushing forward to ascertain it, when he was stopped by loud and repeated shrieks from below; they were in a female voice.—The Lady Isabel was ever present to his imagination. He thought the voice was her's—he listened for a moment.—His suspicions grew stronger. He leaped down the stairs; the shrieks were repeated.—He listened—they led him into the little suite of
apart-

apartments—he rushed through them in an instant; in the third was the door which he had recently opened.—He now heard the voice of his Isabel distinctly; it proceeded from the apartment which he had at first supposed to be her's, and from which he was only separated by a slight partition of plaister.—The shrieks for a moment ceased.—He heard the voice of Isabel, in a tone of terror and supplication, imploring the mercy of some person:

“Alas!” said she, “for pity’s sake
“ spare me.—If I must at last become
“ your

“ your wife, cruel as is my destiny,
 “ I must submit; but for heaven’s sake
 “ —for your own sake, do not attempt
 “ a deed which will call down accu-
 “ mulated vengeance on your own
 “ head.”

“ I thank you,” said Rhodolpho,
 (for it was to him that this prayer was
 addressed) in a tone of cruel and bitter
 raillery, “ for your consent to marry
 “ me, thus unsolicited; while you
 “ were your uncle’s presumptive heir,
 “ it was something; but your father’s
 “ rash attempt has hurl’d you from
 “ his favour.”

“ At least,” said Isabel, in a more determined voice; “ dread the vengeance of that father! of my uncle!”

“ As to your uncle,” said Rhodolpho, in a familiar tone; “ my dear creature, he will never quarrel with a man for lowering your pride, in the present moment; and as to your father, I never fear dangers at a distance. — Come,” continued he, “ do not force me to harsh measures.”

The shrieks of the Lady Isabel were now repeated. Rhinaldo, in a transport of
of

of rage and indignation, setting his back against the slender fence which separated the two apartments, easily broke through it, and lifting the tapestry which covered it, discovered his beloved Isabel, in a night-dress, struggling with Rhodolpho. — He sprung upon him like a lion, and seizing him with both hands by the collar, soon separated him from the princess.

“ Vile dishonourable coward,” said he, “ who bravest distant dangers! “ shudder at one which has come thus “ unexpectedly upon thee, in the “ midst of thy villanies.”

M 2

“ Base-

“Base-born hind ! dost thou know
“ me ?” said Rhodolpho.—“ Unhand
“ me instantly.”

Rhinaldo still held him; but perceiving that he felt about his girdle with his right-hand, he seized it just as it had grasped a dagger, and wrenching the weapon from him, bade him prepare to die. A shriek from the Lady Isabel now awakened his attention; and, throwing the dagger from him, he flew towards her, and conducted her, almost fainting, to a chair.

The

The apartment they were now in had been assigned to the Lady Isabel, and was used by her as her dressing-room. On one side of it was a small apartment, in which stood her bed, connected with it, by an arched doorway, over which hung a curtain of silk, which was seldom let down, as it interrupted the free passage of the air.

Rhodolpho, to whose custody her uncle had consigned her, kept the keys of her prison, the outer apartments of which he kept safely locked; and Isabel, relying upon their being secured, neglected to take any precau-

tion with the inner ones, as much, because she thought it useless, as because, by leaving them unfastened she preserved a communication with the chambers of her cousin Ellenor, and her servant Barbara, who were placed in other apartments, nearly adjacent to her's.

Ellenor, who had been awakened by the shrieks of her cousin, flew, with Barbara, to the door of her chamber, and, finding it lock'd, knock'd loud for admittance. Rhinaldo ordered Rhodolpho to admit them, which the other did not chuse to refuse, but opening

ing the door, suffered them to enter, and quitted the apartment.

Ellenor flew to embrace her cousin, and anxiously inquired into the cause of her alarm.—Isabel satisfied her, and expressed the highest sense of the obligation, under which the sudden and mysterious presence and interposition of the stranger had laid her.

“Do you not, then, know me?” said Rhinaldo, falling at her feet, and pressing one of her hands to his lips.

The voice of Rhinaldo, now, for the first time, struck her ears; and the

M 4

lamp,

lamp, which burnt in her chamber, gave sufficient light to enable her to distinguish his countenance.

“ Rhinaldo,” said she, in a voice scarcely audible; she sunk into his arms; and the moments flew, while these lovers gave themselves up to those chaste and pure raptures, which true passion alone can yield, and which the presence of Ellenor, far from restraining, emboldened the lovely Isabel to acknowledge with less reserve.

Raptures like these were not destined to endure long.—Barbara first alarmed
6 them

them with the intelligence, that she heard the sound of footsteps approaching the chamber; and Rhinaldo instinctively flew to the door, and secured it.

“ Oh Rhinaldo !” exclaimed Isabel,
“ I know not how you came hither ;
“ but, for heaven’s sake, if there is
“ any mode of escape, fly from a fate,
“ which, if you should be taken, must
“ doubly embitter the remaining moments of a life, already sufficiently
“ miserable.” Here she burst into tears.

Rhinaldo, in a tone of fixed resolution, declared that he would remain
where

where he was, to protect Isabel and her cousin; but this resolution was combated with tears and intreaties by Ellenor, as well as Isabel, who represented to him, that after the alarm which had been given, it was impossible that any immediate danger could accrue to Isabel; and, that as to any future evil, it was only by keeping himself free from discovery, that he could entertain a hope of averting it.

“Fly, then,” said Isabel, the tears streaming from her lovely eyes; “at least for my sake.”

This

This argument was, with Rhinaldo, unanswerable. — They now distinctly heard many footsteps in the adjacent chamber. — He embraced Isabel and her cousin, and hastily quitted the apartment by the cavity through which he had entered it.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVII.

RHINALDO, who did not doubt but that in a few minutes his mode of retreat would be discovered, fastened the little door after him, by the bolts which still remained unimpaired, and hesitated for a moment what step to

to take. He conjectured that Rhodolpho might not have discovered him, and thought that no place offered more security than his own chamber, if he could gain it unperceived.

He heard the voices of several men in Isabel's apartment, and had no longer time to hesitate. He moved quickly up the stairs, and crossing hastily thro' the loft, began to descend on the other side. He had already passed the gallery door, when he heard voices at the foot of the stairs, and was enabled to distinguish, among others, these words:

"Here

“ Here is the staircase which leads to
“ that side of the house.”

He returned in a moment, and ascended again to the loft. The gallery door was open, and he judged that his pursuers would take that way, which would compel them to return, and that he should thus gain time. They indeed entered the gallery; but instead of returning, upon finding the door shut, they forced it open; and when Rhinaldo, who had in the mean time crossed the loft, prepared to descend, he heard their voices at the bottom of the staircase. In the utmost perplexity,

plexity, he looked anxiously and eagerly around him, for an outlet; the door of the loft, on this side, opened into a small square room, which formed a kind of landing-place, whence the stairs descended. In one corner of this landing-place was a small door which opened, as Rhinaldo discovered, on a narrow winding staircase, leading, as it seemed, to the roof of the castle. As he had no time for choice, he began to ascend; but was suddenly surprised by a noise above him, on the staircase, he listened, and thought he heard the steps of a man. Astonished as he was, he continued to ascend, feeling his way
along,

along the wall with his hand, which at last encountered a small door; he pushed against it—it opened; but was immediately closed by some person from the inside, and fastened.

Thus excluded, he was obliged to pursue his way up the staircase; it ended in a narrow room, in the ceiling of which was a trap-door; but there was no ladder to enable him to reach it.—He heard a trampling in the room below. He looked round, and discovered a small window, the casement of which was almost entirely gone.—It looked out upon the battlements, he

he perceived that it was just wide enough to admit the passage of his body through it.—He caught hold of a bar, which divided it in two, and springing up, thrust himself, with some little difficulty, through it, and found himself on the battlements of the loftiest part of the castle.—He pursued his way along them, though he found it somewhat impeded by the ruins which had fallen from the tower above him. out of which he had escaped, which was the most ancient part of the whole edifice, and, as has been before observed, the most neglected.

He arrived at length at a door, leading into one of the turrets, with which these battlements were flanked; this turret was nearly in as ruinous a state as the tower above. And Rhinaldo, when he pushed open the door, found himself impeded by the rubbish which had fallen on the inside of it.—He entered, however, with some little difficulty, and found himself at the top of the winding staircase of the turret, by which he resolved to descend; it was very old and broken; the walls emitted unusual dampness; and it bore every mark of having been deserted for ages.—After pursuing this descent
for

For a considerable time, he found himself at a kind of resting-place; this was a long narrow vaulted passage, branching off to the left of the staircase, which, however, still continued to descend.

Rhinaldo felt his way along this passage, which, from the length of time he had already been descending, and from its arched form, he judged to be situated among the vaults under the castle, and having pursued it for some time, found, at the end of it, a low door, seemingly very strong, studded with large nails, and almost choaked up with rubbish.—He now

returned towards the staircase of the turret — he listened, but could hear nothing of his pursuers, who, it was probable, had given up their search. — He hesitated whether he should return or no; but curiosity prompting him, he resolved to explore to what profounder depth the staircase extended, having already conducted him, as he was convinced, many feet underground.

He began again to descend—the staircase continued, winding downwards, till it ended in a low arched passage, extending in a contrary direction

tion to that above. — The mouth of this passage was closed by an iron grate, which hung sloping towards the ground, supported only by one of the hinges, (the other having given way) and the bolt on the opposite side. This grate Rhinaldo easily threw to the ground, and entered the passage.

After having walked for a considerable time, and immured in total darkness, and gradually descending as he went; he thought of returning; but perceiving, suddenly, that he began to ascend, he resolved again to proceed, and finding himself impelled by a cu-

riosity, which every moment interested him more and more ; he continued to move forward, feeling his way with his hands, and gradually ascending, till his foot struck against something, which, upon examination, he found to be a stone step ; he felt with his hands, and discovered that he was at the bottom of a staircase, which he began to ascend.

This staircase was of considerable length, and Rhinaldo, who felt himself incommoded by the damp air of the subterraneous vault, was compelled, after

after some time, to stop and rest himself.

After a pause, he again proceeded, and found himself at length at the summit of the staircase, his farther progress being opposed by a trap-door of great weight. Rhinaldo placed his back against this door, and after some vigorous attempts, he succeeded in raising it.—As it rose he felt himself almost covered with rubbish, and found, by a noise above, something had been displaced by his efforts.—He entered a place, damp, close, and confined; he could not conjecture what it might

be.—As he walked cautiously round it, he felt his progress impeded; he stooped to discover the cause of this impediment, and his hand alighted on a coffin, covered with velvet, and studded thick with nails.

Wrapt in the reflexions which this singular object gave rise to, he proceeded slowly, till he came to a flight of steps, which he ascended, and found, at the top of them, a pair of folding doors.—These he attempted to open, but, for a long time, in vain; at length, old, rotten, and crazy, they yielded to the vigorous and repeated efforts, which

which the horror he conceived at being buried alive urged him to make, and he found himself within the iron railing which surrounded a magnificent tomb, in a small chapel, within that belonging to the monastery of St. Julian. This place he knew (for the moon still shed her mellow light through the painted windows of the chapel) to be the tomb of his ancestors; a privileged place of burial for the lords of the castle, and domain around.

His rapture on this discovery is scarcely to be conceived. — He saw the usurper, Astolpho, delivered into the

the hands of his gracious and righteous sovereign, the great and good Emanuel. He saw his father revenged, and his princess delivered !

After having opened a gate in the iron railing surrounding the tomb, which he effected by putting his hand between the bars, and pushing back a bolt; he passed through a wicket of the same materials, which separated the little chapel from that of the convent, and entered the latter; but despairing of making himself heard before the chapel should be opened at matins, he placed himself on a bench

in

in the choir, and musing on the singular adventures of the evening, was at length overtaken by sleep.

He had slept but a short space of time, when he was awakened by the step of some person walking slowly down the aisle, in which he sat.—What were his emotions, when he beheld, advancing towards him, the same armed figure which he had thrice before discovered in the course of the same evening!

He was a second time convinced that it was the armour of his father ;
the

the vizor of the helmet was up ; he could no longer doubt it ; the eye of his father was bent full upon him. — Rhinaldo fell on his knee, and with a mixture of enthusiastic affection and reverential awe exclaimed :

“ O sacred shade ! which bearest
“ the form of the most honoured, the
“ most revered of fathers, disclose, I
“ conjure thee, the cause of this most
“ solemn visitation.”

“ Can it be Rhinaldo ! ” exclaimed
the seeming spectre, in the voice of
Count Roderic ; “ arise, my son, and
“ tell

“tell how it happens that I thus encounter thee.”

These words almost bereft Rhinaldo of his senses.—The surprise of the moment was scarcely to be borne.—That the father he supposed murdered should thus unaccountably stand before him! He seemed growing to the pavement, where he kneeled.—His father saw the conflict, and, advancing, raised him from the ground, and embraced him tenderly. Rhinaldo now recovered himself.—He fell again at the feet of his father, and seizing his mailed hand, pressed the cold rivets to his lips, and
bedewed

bedewed it with the tears of filial affection.

A third person now joined them, who proved to be a faithful domestic of Count Roderic, named Hugo; and some time was spent, between the father and the son, in expressing their mutual surprise at so unexpected a meeting.

Rhinaldo having seated himself by his father, gave him an account of all the circumstances which had, on his side, conduced to so extraordinary an event; and when he had finished his

6 story,

story, his father gratified his curiosity, by a short relation of the circumstances which had, on his part, contributed to this singular encounter.

He told him, that upon perceiving Astolpho's intentions, which, though he had suspected them, he did not find himself enabled to resist, confirmed by his conduct when he entered the castle; he had, himself, firmly determined not to quit it, but to lie concealed till some opportunity should offer itself of regaining his lawful possession, or at least of executing vengeance on his enemies. That in order to effect this, he had recourse

recourse to the advice and assistance of his noble and valued friend, Leopold, who had agreed to leave the castle, and join the forces of Emanuel (though he had not yet declared himself on his side) on the western frontiers, clad in a suit of Count Roderic's armour, and accompanied by a chosen party of brave friends, who were themselves, that the deception might be more certain, to be persuaded that it was Roderic that accompanied them.

This scheme succeeded but too well for Leopold; who, being taken for his friend, was pursued by the malignant
hatred

hatred of Astolpho, and perished.—

Count Roderic in the mean time remained secreted in the old part of the castle, confining himself in the day time to a small room, which opened on the staircase, leading to the tower, from the battlements below which Rhinaldo had escaped.

He was here supplied with necessities by the means of his faithful domestic, Hugo, who mixed, unsuspected, with the servants of the castle.—From him he learned the death of his friend, and, in a transport of grief and indignation, formed a firm resolution to

revenge it. He resolved, however, to delay the execution of his vengeance till the time when other circumstances should determine him to leave the castle. Since the period in which the conduct of Aftolpho had become, towards him, that of an implacable enemy, Roderic, whom, after many years of faithful service, not even the juster claims of Emanuel would have induced to appear in arms against the usurper, suffered overtures to be conveyed, through the means of Hugo, to his oppressed and virtuous prince; through the same channel he received information,

ation, that a company of men at arms would quarter, on the very evening when this eventful meeting took place, at about five miles from the castle.—

Count Roderic resolved to join them; but before he executed that resolve, he determined to exact the vengeance he meditated for the murder of his friend. Hugo had bribed the centinel on the bridge, that they might be suffered to pass at a more early hour than usual. Two of the Count's horses were ready in the stable; and it was highly probable, that an officer of the Count's appearance, though he would scarcely

have been permitted to enter them, might be suffered to quit the lines unsuspected.

This would probably have been the case, had he pursued only his design of escaping; but his mind was agitated by the hopes of approaching vengeance. He was armed by the assistance of Hugo, and waited with impatience for the hour when the centinel on the bridge should be relieved, that the man whom Hugo had bribed might take his turn; it was during this period of suspense, that he was thrice seen by Rhinaldo.

At

At length the hour approached; he descended to the chamber where he knew Aftolpho slept.—He passed the anti-chamber with caution; the officers were buried in a profound sleep; he approached the bed of Aftolpho, and putting aside the curtains, drew his dagger. — Aftolpho awaked, and fixed his opening eyes on him till they exhibited a degree of horror, which, in some measure, recalled Count Roderic to himself. The usurper lay speechless, under the impression of the most agonizing terrors.

Roderic was unfit for the office of an assassin.—He was a knight of hi-

therto unstained reputation; the victim before him he had long obeyed as his sovereign.—He sheathed his dagger, and slowly quitted the room, leaving Astolpho, who was extremely superstitious, under a firm conviction, that the object he had beheld was the spirit of the murdered Roderic, who had appeared to reproach him with his guilt.

The Count retired, as he had entered, unmolested; and his next object was to effect his retreat from the castle. He returned to the chamber in the staircase, in search of Hugo.—The
castle

castle was now alarmed, and it became necessary to wait till all should again become quiet.

In the course of a short period the search after Rhinaldo commenced, and led his pursuers to the very part of the castle in which the Count was concealed. When he heard their footsteps he did not, for a moment, doubt that he was the object of their search.—He heard them at the bottom of the staircase, the room in which Count Roderic was concealed, which was in the tower, communicated by a flight of narrow stairs with the platform.—There was

no time for hesitation.—The Count, accompanied by Hugo, ascended, and they found themselves on the loftiest part of the roof of the castle; but even here, if pursued, they must be taken.

There seemed no mode of escape, unless they could gain the battlements below.—They perceived, on examination, that part of the parapet had in one place fallen in, towards the battlements, and rendered the descent not very difficult; they resolved to attempt it, and succeeded.

They

They pursued the path which Rhinaldo had trod before them; it was, indeed, the only one they could take; they came to the turret—it promised to them an asylum, as it had done to him before; they entered it; the courage of Count Roderic was as little to be daunted by the prospect of the subterraneous passage as that of his son, and the necessity of attempting his escape was, perhaps, more urgent.

He entered it, accompanied by Hugo, unconscious whither it might lead him; for it had been long before his time disused, and the very knowledge

ledge of it, though palpably formed to add strength to the castle, by affording a communication with the mount, buried in oblivion.—They arrived in the chapel at the period when Rhinaldo's fatigues had buried him in that sleep from which the sound of his father's footsteps awakened him.

CHAP.

CHAP. XVIII.

DAY had scarcely begun to encroach upon the pale light which the moon had diffused over the venerable walls of the chapel, when the sacristan unbarred the door, and was surprised

surprised by the sight of Count Roderic and his son. He conducted them, at their desire, to the officer of the guard, in whom Rhinaldo immediately discovered his friend Anselmo. After mutual embraces Rhinaldo informed him of the singular adventures which had led his father and himself to that spot; and Anselmo introduced them to the presence of Emanuel, who had already arisen, and was in arms.—This gracious prince received Rhinaldo with a cordial embrace; for he had witnessed the virtues of this young knight, during their intimacy, while he concealed his rank, under the garb and name of
Father

Father Anthony.—To Count Roderic his demeanour was cordial, frank and open.

He had, not long before he was dispossessed of his throne, by the perfidy of Aftolpho, conceived some displeasure at the conduct of Roderic, whose fiery unbending spirit had compelled the king at length to banish him his presence, and the intelligence he received, upon his enlargement, that this nobleman had, for many years, possessed, in a very high degree, the favour and confidence of Aftolpho, led him to suspect that he
was

was privy to the perfidy which had deprived him of his liberty and his crown. This suspicion, unfounded, as in truth it was; for Roderic owed his rise in the court of Astolpho, to his recent disgrace with Emanuel; and his continuance in the confidence of that usurper, to his power in the state, and his conduct in the field, so firmly possessed the mind of Emanuel, that though he had learned his late disgrace at the court of Astolpho, he did not think it safe to trust him with the secret, on which, not only his hopes of again ascending the throne of Lombardy, but even his very life depended.

These suspicions were now wiped away; his displeasure had long subsided, and the daring spirit, and undisguised open temper and demeanour, which had procured this nobleman the appellation of Roderic the Hardy, again obtained their former credit in the mind of Emanuel.

The discovery of the subterraneous passage was made known to the king, and after a council of the knights had been called, it was agreed, that the castle should be surpris'd by the means of this inlet, while every preparation was made

made for an active and vigorous co-operation from without.

The rising sun had not long shed its golden light on the turrets of Count Roderic's Castle, before a knight, completely armed, arrived at the gate and demanded admission to the presence of Astolpho. As soon as that prince had arisen, and a council had been summoned, he was admitted. This knight, who was of a figure in which strength, grace, and agility were combined, was magnificently armed, and a large fable plume waved on his helmet. — He advanced towards the
chair

chair in which Astolpho was seated, and bending one knee to the ground, demanded justice against a knight of his train, whom he pledged himself to prove a recreant, false to his God, and to his king; an oppressor, and base wrong-doer, towards that sex which he was bound by his oath, and the order he profaned, to succour and protect.

Astolpho promised him the battle, and demanded if the knight were in presence, urging him, at the same time, to speak boldly, and of good heart.—The knight with the sable plume then

rising, lifted the vizor of his helmet, and discovered the face of Count Tancred. He fixed his eyes on Rhodolpho, who stood near the chair of the king, and addressed him thus:

“ Count Rhodolpho, as thou art a
“ knight, attend. — Thou holdest in
“ a rigorous and cruel captivity, if
“ thy savage rage hath not yet de-
“ stroyed her, the Princess Aspasia,
“ the sister of this injured monarch,
“ whose favour thou abusest. — The
“ truth of this I pledge myself to make
“ good upon thy head, when, and at
“ what weapons, (provided they be
“ such

“such as may become a knight) thou
“wilt.”

At these words Count Tancred threw down his gauntlet, which Rhodolpho took up, denying, with many asseverations, but with manifest confusion, the truth of the charge.

Astolpho, in whose countenance, amidst the strongest marks of astonishment, a thousand passions seemed struggling for mastery, arose, and ordering the lists to be prepared, and the battle to take place on the succeeding morning, at day-break, left the chamber,

and the council broke up.—In the mean time, Count Tancred, who was known to many of the knights in Astolpho's train, was welcomed to the castle, and care was taken that he should be honourably treated till the next morning should arrive.

Astolpho, in the mean time, remained involved in the deepest perplexity. Among his many faults, want of affection towards this sister had no place. He was fond of her, and it was much against his inclination that he had felt himself compelled to sacrifice her to the arms of the Count St. Amand.—

His

His indignation, therefore, against Rhodolpho was raised to the highest pitch, by the very idea, that the accusation of Count Tancred might be true; but the important secret, of which this favourite was master, compelled him to stifle his resentment, and to hide in smiles the rage which rankled in his heart; for he well knew, that many persons of the first consequence, who at present supported his cause, did it from a conviction, which had been artfully instilled into them, that his opponent was an impostor, and that Emanuel had actually perished, as had been reported.

P 3

While

While he was musing in his chamber, agitated by these reflections, he was surprised by the presence of Rhodolpho, who had the privilege of entering this apartment.—He could not readily account for this visit, at such a season, and was not a little surprised to find, that the cause of it was the anxious desire which Rhodolpho felt to make a solemn denial of the foul charge, preferred against him in the presence of his sovereign, a charge which he solemnly averred to be founded in the most atrocious falsehood, and the most inveterate malignity, which, he added, he did not doubt he should fully prove
on

on the succeeding morning; protesting at the same time, with the strongest asseverations, that he had not seen the Countess since the death of his father.

This declaration was graciously received by Aftolpho, and was, indeed, highly grateful to him.—He was willing to believe it true; but in spite of his inclination, he felt some doubts which he could not wholly suppress. He had long suspected the courage of Rhodolpho, and could scarcely account for his meeting this charge with such determined resolution. This resolution, however, if it was not a proof that he was innocent, was, at least, a strong one that he

was willing to appear so; a circumstance which was calculated to spare to Aftolpho much mortifying self-humiliation; nor could he help looking with some secret anxiety towards the event of the battle, which, by the death of Rhodolpho, might free him from a subject already become too powerful not to cause him much uneasiness.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIX.

RHODOLPHO, in the meantime, who had never made this declaration till he had taken a resolution effectually to prevent the discovery of its falshood, thought of nothing less than

of

of meeting Count Tancred in the field.—His brain, fertile in every project of villany, had engendered the plan of preventing the combat, before he had pledged himself to Aftolpho, that he would so ardently embrace that method of proving his innocence, and he retired from that prince's chamber to give more maturity to his design.—He knew no method of preventing the combat, which was to take place in the morning, so effectual as that of assassinating his adversary over night; nor did his heart, at once treacherous, cowardly and cruel, revolt at a crime, not sanctioned indeed, but unhappily rendered

rendered too frequent by the barbarous manners of the age.

He thought, that by the means of some worthless instruments, about his person, he might be enabled to do this undiscovered; but, at all events, should suspicions arise, he was sure of protection from Astolpho. His only subject of debate now was how to accomplish his infamous design; and after some time spent in deliberation, he formed the following plan:

In consequence of his brutal and unmannerly attack on the defenceless
Isabel,

Isabel, during the preceding night, that lady had sent a most earnest intreaty to Astolpho, that if she was in future to be confined, her place of confinement might be near to his apartments; nor did Rhodolpho, whom the sudden appearance, and mysterious escape of Rhinaldo had filled with strange suspicions and fears, oppose this request; in consequence of which the princess, together with her cousin and attendant, was removed to an apartment nearly adjoining to that of Astolpho.

Rhodolpho,

Rhodolpho, who had the superintendence of the household, though he could not, in this case, act officially, easily procured it to be intimated to the steward, who supplied his place, that the apartment lately quitted by the princess, would afford the most proper accommodation for the strange knight; and that apartment was, upon this intimation, prepared for him.

Rhodolpho now saw his enemy in his hands; he had, in the pursuit of Rhinaldo, discovered the door by which he had escaped; an inlet to the apartment which would be effectually

ally concealed from the unsuspecting inhabitant by the tapestry. Through this door he determined to give entrance, at midnight, to the ruffian, who had been privy to his infamous design on the Lady Isabel, and to two others of his train, whom this man pointed out as proper instruments for the business.—These miscreants were to dispatch the unfortunate Count and his attendant with their daggers, while Rhodolpho, himself, waited without to assist them in disposing of their bodies.

The plan being thus projected, and the horrid instruments of his infamous
sign

design well instructed ; he saw his unsuspecting adversary retire from a slight meal, of which he partook with some friends, towards his apartment, for the night.—Aftolpho also retired to rest. The tumult of the hall began, by degrees, to subside ; and all grew silent.

Rhodolpho alone, with a mind agitated by all the accumulated horrors which fasten on a design so diabolical ; yet urged by desperate cowardice to the perpetration of his guilt, paced, with trembling step, the still gloomy recesses of the castle.—The darkness

and silence of the scene shed a double portion of terror, over his mind.

The clock toll'd two—this was the hour at which his accomplices had agreed to meet him—all was still silent, not a step to be heard; he thought they had mistaken the place of appointment, and were, perhaps, already arrived at the spot, which was to be the scene of their infamous action.—He went up stairs, passed through the gallery, and arrived at the little door; he found no person there; the door was still fastened.—He had just opened it, when he heard the footsteps of some persons

persons descending the stairs, on that side of the gallery; they entered the apartment with cautious silent steps.—Rhodolpho advanced towards them:

“Come,” said he, in a low tremulous voice; “you are late; the door is opened; be careful, but be resolute. When the deed is done bring the bodies into this room, with every thing that can lead to a discovery, and we will dispose of them.”

He had scarcely uttered these words, when he received the sword of the person he addressed through his body,

and the voice of Rhinaldo exclaimed,
“ Die, most infamous assassin.”

Rhinaldo, with his father, and friend Anselmo, had been deputed to conduct a select body of Emanuel's troops thro' the subterraneous passage, and they had gained the tower, undiscovered, at the hour when it was judged that the inhabitants of the castle were lulled in profound repose.

Rhinaldo, to whom the safety and protection of the Lady Isabel had been particularly intrusted by her father, hastened, accompanied by a few friends,
towards

towards that door, which he knew communicated with her apartment, when he was thus met, and thus accosted by Rhodolpho.

Rhodolpho, when he received the wound, groaned and fell.

Rhinaldo, impressed by the words of Rhodolpho, with the utmost horror, drew his sword from the body, and rushing towards the door, which he found open, entered the apartment, accompanied by his attendants.—On lifting the tapestry, he was surprised to discover, by a light which burned in

Q 2

the

the room, a person busily employed in arranging and adjusting several pieces of armour; nor was this person, who was Count Tancred's former deliverer, less surprised to see a figure, with a sword imbrued with blood, advance from behind the tapestry.—He dropped the helmet which he held in his hand, and his sudden exclamations awakened his master, Count Tancred, who, slipping on a loose robe, and snatching up a sword which lay by him, entered from his chamber.

The mutual surprise of Rhinaldo and the Count, at this meeting, kept them,

them, for some moments, silent.—

Rhinaldo at length informed his friend, in a few words, of the operations of the night, and left him in the care of two of his attendants, while he himself proceeded in search of Isabel.

He passed hastily through the hall, where he already perceived that the business was begun.—A party, near the steps of the range of apartments, which were occupied by Aftolpho, boldly, but unsuccessfully opposed another, at the head of which Rhinaldo discovered the plume of his father; he rushed forward to join him; the oppo-

the party retreated up the steps towards the chamber of Astolpho. When they arrived at his chamber, they found it empty; nor were they long in discovering the fate of this guilty and unfortunate Prince.

The vision, as he thought it, of the preceding night, had so much occupied his mind, that the idea of it had, since its appearance, almost incessantly haunted his imagination.

He was observed to be thoughtful and gloomy during the course of the day, and when, after supper, he again retired

retired to bed, he endeavoured in vain to compose himself to rest. After some hours spent in anxiety and terror, he arose, and, dressing himself, walked about his chamber, waiting impatiently for the dawn.

Tired, at length, with his own thoughts, he walked into his anti-chamber, where he found the officers of his guard and other attendants more alert than usual from the alarm of the preceding evening. He conversed with them at intervals for some time. During a pause in the conversation, he thought he heard the sound of foot-

Q4

steps.

steps without. The state of his mind made him awake to every suspicion—he listened again—it was no longer to be doubted. In a fit of desperation he rushed out at the head of his few attendants, and met his fate at the very first onset. He was found soon afterwards in the hall covered with wounds, and deprived of every symptom of animation.

After having assisted to beat back the party who opposed his father, Rhinaldo, whose thoughts were continually bent upon his Isabel, again detached himself with a small party in

purfuit of her. From the door of a chamber near to Aftolpho's, he faw three females rufh forth in all the wildnefs of fudden and extreme terror.— He met them, and repeating the name of Ifabel, ftopped their progrefs.— The firft of thefe females pronouncing the name of Rhinaldo, rufhed, as if for protection, into his arms.

It was the Lady Ifabel. He conducted her, with her Coufin and attendant, to the apartment of Count Tancred, under whose protection he left them, that he might again join his father;

father; but he found his presence useless. Emanuel had on the preceding day contrived to send intelligence to the party of cavalry which Count Roderic had prepared himself to join, of the plan in agitation, with orders to march in the night, and surprise, if possible, that part of Aftolpho's lines, which was opposite to their quarters; at the same time he quitted the priory, and at the head of his chosen troops made an attack on those posts which were the nearest to him. Assaulted at once on opposite sides, and this in the middle of the night, Aftolpho's troops
made

made but a feeble resistance, and after a short stand they began to give way on all sides.

Count Roderic, in the mean time, having filled the Castle with his followers, and secured the soldiers within, who, lulled in a fatal security, were most of them surprised without arms, had by this measure effectually disconcerted the troops, who fled before Emanuel; for when they retreated for refuge to the Castle, they found the drawbridge in possession of their enemies.

They

They threw down their arms—the gates were soon opened to Emanuel, and the dawn of day saw his standard displayed on the walls.

CHAP.

CHAP. XX.

RHINALDO had no sooner saluted his beloved and revered sovereign, and joined in the general congratulations on this singular success, than he flew to the apartment of Count Tancred,

Tancred, that he might introduce his Isabel to a parent whom she had not seen since the age of childhood, and whom she had so long lamented as dead.

He found the chamber empty—but, listening, was attracted by the sound of voices to the little room behind the tapestry, where he discovered the Count, the Lady Isabel, Ellenor, and their attendants.

They were surrounding a wretched man, who seemed mortally wounded. He was sitting on the ground with his
back

back against the wall, and was supported on one side by one of the attendants.

It was Count Rhodolpho, whose groans had led them from the inner chamber to the spot where he lay.— When Rhinaldo entered, he was imploring the pardon of the surrounding audience, but particularly of Tancred, for the offences he had committed, and for the farther ones which he had meditated against them.

He told Count Tancred that the Princess Aspasia was confined in his
Castle,

Castle, and, drawing a ring from his finger, informed him, that upon producing that token to his steward, who had then the command of the Castle, she would be immediately delivered to him.

He confessed, with much contrition, that a passion he had conceived for that lady, stronger than that which bound him towards the Lady Isabel, had caused him thus to secrete her.

As he was much exhausted, Rhinaldo ordered him to be conveyed to the bed in the adjoining chamber.—

This

This was with some difficulty done.— His wound was there dressed, but he died in the course of the succeeding day.

Emanuel, thus restored to his throne, bestowed every day fresh marks of his favour on Rhinaldo and his father, who had been the instruments of this happy revolution.

For Rhinaldo he had long felt and long professed the affection of a father; he no sooner received his long-lost daughter from his hands, than he returned her to this affectionate lover, as

the brightest boon he could bestow.— That she was indeed so, every hour which this enviable father spent in her company convinced him; and, perhaps, if he had not so suddenly given her to Rhinaldo, the difficulty he felt in parting with her might have inclined him to hesitate.

Anselmo now interceded with Rhinaldo to mention his pretensions to the Lady Ellenor; nor were they for a moment disregarded. Emanuel expressed himself happy to be enabled thus to reward the attachment of this deserving young nobleman.

The

The last words of the miserable Rhodolpho filled the bosom of Count Tancred with a tumult of hopes and fears. He had no sooner been introduced by his friend Rhinaldo to Emanuel, than he prepared to depart for Rhodolpho's Castle, having obtained, in addition to the token he had received, a mandate from the king. It will be needless to describe the rapture which attended the meeting of these lovers.

By the intercession of Rhinaldo the Princess obtained the restoration of the estates of the Count St. Amand, which had been forfeited; and after some time

R 2

passed

passed in widowhood, from respect to the memory of an husband, who had so little deserved it, she rewarded the faithful attachment of Count Tancred with her hand.

The steady and zealous services of Rugiero were not forgotten by Rhinaldo, who obtained for him an honourable and lucrative situation. Nor did the Lady Isabel overlook in Barbara, the companion of her toils and her dangers; and they found, when, after a reign of many prosperous years, the death of Emanuel exalted them to the throne of Lombardy, in these steady
and

and zealous adherents, true and loyal subjects, and firm and faithful friends.

The hours of adversity which Emanuel had known, had strengthened his mind, which his tedious solitude had much inured to habits of reflection; nor could he fail to observe, as often as he contemplated the combination of circumstances which had brought about a revolution so singular, how seldom, if we would wait patiently for events, we should have reason to inveigh against the success, even in this life, attending criminal actions; and with how little
con-

constancy and foresight we are continue to lament those circumstances as evil, which eventually, though inexplicably, produce our greatest good.

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